

11 of the lead becomes shorter than a distance between the lead feeding mechanism and the tip  
12 end of said barrel, said first holding portion holds the short lead and said second holding  
13 portion holds a next lead tightened by the lead feeding mechanism.

*A 1* 4. (Amended) The mechanical pencil according to claim 1, wherein the lead holder includes  
*A 2* a body, and an outside cylinder provided concentrically on an outside of the body,  
said outside cylinder being formed with a rib projecting in an outside diameter  
direction to come into contact with an inner peripheral face of the barrel.

*A 3* 6. (Amended) The mechanical pencil according to claim 1, wherein said lead holder includes  
a body, said body being formed with at least one blade comprising at least one of said holding  
portions, the at least one blade projecting in an inside diameter direction in a front end part of  
said body to come into contact with the lead.

7. (Amended) The mechanical pencil according to claim 1, wherein the lead holder includes  
a body, said body being formed with a rib comprising at least one of said holding portions,  
the rib projecting in an inside diameter direction in a rear end part of said body to come into  
contact with the lead.

*A 4* 10. (Amended) A writing instrument, comprising:  
2 a barrel;  
3 a writing medium feeding mechanism disposed in said barrel to be adapted to tighten  
4 and feed a writing medium; and  
5 a writing medium holder disposed between the writing medium feeding mechanism  
6 and a tip end of said barrel, said writing medium holder having a through hole through which  
7 the writing medium penetrates and having holding portions for holding the writing medium  
8 and a contact portion for contacting an inner peripheral face of the barrel,  
9 said holding portions including a first holding portion at a front portion of the writing  
10 medium holder and a second holding portion at a rear portion of the writing medium holder  
11 so that when a length of the writing medium becomes shorter than a distance between the  
12 writing medium and the tip end of said barrel, said first holding portion holds the short

*Ch 13* writing medium and said second holding portion holds a next writing medium tightened by  
*14* the writing medium feeding mechanism.

*A 5* *Dull* 13. (Amended) The writing instrument according to claim 10, wherein the writing medium holder includes a body, and an outside cylinder provided concentrically on an outside of the body,

*Dull* said outside cylinder being formed with a rib projecting in an outside diameter direction to come into contact with an inner peripheral face of the barrel.

*Seal* 15. (Amended) The writing instrument according to claim 10, wherein said writing medium holder includes a body, said body being formed with at least one blade comprising at least one of said holding portions, the at least one blade projecting in an inside diameter direction in a front end part of said body to come into contact with the writing medium.

*A 6* 16. (Amended) The writing instrument according to claim 10, wherein the writing medium holder includes a body, said body being formed with a rib comprising at least one of said holding portions, the rib projecting in an inside diameter direction in a rear end part of said body to come into contact with the writing medium.

*A 7* 19. (Amended) The writing instrument according to claim 10, wherein said holding portions comprise a blade and a rib which come into contact with the lead passing through the through hole.

**Please add the following new claims:**

- 1     – 21. A writing instrument, comprising:
  - 2       a tip end of a barrel;
  - 3       a writing medium holder held by said tip end of said barrel having a through hole
  - 4       through which a writing medium penetrates; and
  - 5       holding portions formed on said writing medium holder for holding the writing
  - 6       medium, said holding portions being formed at two or more positions along an axial length of

7        said writing medium holder, said holding portions including a first holding portion at a front  
8        portion of the writing medium holder and a second holding portion at a rear portion of the  
9        writing medium holder,  
10      wherein when a length of the writing medium becomes short, said first holding  
11     portion holds the writing medium and said second holding portion holds an unused writing  
12     medium. --

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please delete the Abstract of Disclosure on file and replace with the attached  
Replacement Abstract of Disclosure.